

REMARKS

Claims 2-12 have been cancelled. Claims 13-28 have been added and constitute the claims currently pending in the present application.

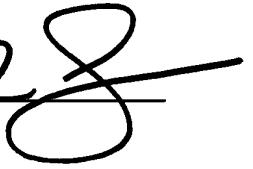
Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to prosecute the above-identified application at his or her earliest possible convenience and requests entry of the above Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

If there should be any communication that the Examiner would like to make with the attorney of record in this case, he or she is requested to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600 to discuss the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


W.R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/lkj

Reel tines

Description

The invention relates to attaching a reel tine ~~for the attachment onto~~ a carrier tube of a reel. The carrier tube which is crosswise drilled through crosswise and, respectively, has in the area of two attachment bores, arranged on one bore axis and extending through the wall of the carrier tube, sink portions directed to the inside. The reel tine is retainable by a screw on the carrier tube.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The reel of a harvesting machine ~~comprises generally includes~~ several carrier tubes. The carrier tubes are radially, from- adistanted radially to a central tube and circumferentially distributed around this andand the central tube. The carrier tubes which are supported by corresponding bearing arms, connected to the central tube. The carrier tubes themselves are pivotably supported on the bearing arms. As Since the width of the cutting table of a harvesting machine is especially large in modern machines, the reels and carrier tubes are also formed correspondingly long, and also the corresponding carrier tubes. The carrier tubes carry reel tines, which are arranged distributedly arranged along its the carrier tube's length. For example, on a six meter long carrier tube, 40 or more tines are generally attached to the carrier tube. In Thus, 15 a reel with six carrier tubes, therefore, 240 tines are provided.

20

25 Preferably, two basic types of reel tines are used. Reel tines made from steel are preferred ~~for to~~ harvesting goods, which are difficult to collect ~~and to be transported in to~~ the cutting table of the cutting section. For example, these tines are used ~~for on~~ cereals and especially ~~for on~~ cereals lying on the ground or in the grass harvesting.

For other harvesting goods, for example beans and other leguminous fruit, reel tines made from plastic materials are ~~preferably preferred used~~. The above named harvesting goods ~~have to must~~ be cut close to the ground, since as the first shoots, which are on stalks, already grow close to the ground ~~on stalks~~. In the modern machinery,

which include very wide cutting tables ~~efon~~ the harvesting devices~~,,~~ for example, combine harvesters, in order to harvest for these harvesting goods very flexible cutter bars are used. The cutter bars, which are guided in the operating position are guided in contact with the ground in front of the cutting table, and which cuts the harvesting good. On ~~an~~ uneven ground, these flexible cutter bars carry out at least partially a vertical movement relative to the cutting table. In this case, when lifting the cutter bar, it happens, that one or a multitude of reel tines get between the reciprocating blades of the cutter bar. With reel tines made from plastic material a shearing-off of the tip of the same happens, however, no negative influence onto the blade nor the cutter bar drive follows.

Generally in carrier ~~tubetubes~~, cross-wise extending attachment bores are punched ~~in~~ into the carrier tubes. ~~wherein the~~ The deformations around the bores are in the form of ~~the~~ sink portions, are produced. When the bores are produced from diametrical sides, the carrier tube is provided with two funnel-like sink portions in opposite directed, ~~funnel-like sink portions~~ directions. Different reel tines, made from plastic materials, are known, which can be attached to such carrier tubes.

~~US 48 82 899 U.S. Patent No. 4,882,899~~ discloses a reel tine manufactured from plastic material. The tine, which has a clip-like portion which encloses, enclosing the carrier tube. The ~~and wherein the~~ two opposed attachment portions are clamped against each other by a screw. Furthermore, a projection is formed on the bore portion enclosed by the clip portion. The projection ~~a projection is formed~~, which engages ~~in~~ the recess or a sink portion of the carrier tube. Furthermore, ~~on the reel tines~~ lateral wing-like profiled strips are formed on the reel tines. One of the strips, of which one has at its free end face a recess and the other one a projection. During a stronger radial loading, the enclosing strip is deformed. The, the pin-like lug leaves the bore and a rotational displacement is produced relative to the carrier tube. Thus, so that the reel tine cannot fulfil its function. The formed wing-like ~~formed~~ on profiled strips extend over half the distance to a neighbouring reel tine. The profile strips and engage ~~there~~ with the opposite directed profiled strip of the neighbouring tine by ~~a means of the~~ tongue and groove connection. This connection is, however, ~~insta-~~

~~bleunstable~~. Thus, so that then, when a reel tine is displaced on the carrier tube due to overloading, also the tongue and groove connection is also detached. Furthermore, in this construction the distances of the reel tines on the carrier tube have to ~~correspond~~ correctly correspond to each other. A later adaptation is not possible, 5 when replacing ~~these~~ the tines.

US-61-99-358 U.S. Patent No. 6,199,358 relates to a reel tine made from plastic material. The tine which has an attachment portion with a recess, which forms an abutment face to a portion on the outer face of the carrier tube. The carrier tube has 10 the two attachment bores, arranged on one bore axis. D, which different different to from the common design, the bores are not part of the sink portions. A pin projection is provided in the area of the recess of the attachment portion of the reel tine a pin projection is provided, in which includes a bore is provided. The reel tine projects with this pin projection through the attachment bore into the inside of the carrier tube. 15 Starting from the opposite attachment bore, a screw with a countersunk head is screwed into and retains by this the reel tine on the carrier tube. The raking-in portion is formed rod-like and bent and has a front contact face. It is formed tapered widthwise from an approximately centre portion in the direction to of its free end. A disadvantage is, that the projection, made from plastic material, has to absorb the full loading in connection with the screw. Accordingly, detaching often results during 20 loading when being loaded a strong tensile force acts onto the screw, so that a detaching often results.

Finally, U.S. Patent No. 6,324,823 B1 US 63-24-823 B1 describes a reel tine made 25 from plastic material. The tine, which can be attached on a carrier tube provided with diametrical sink portions. It has an elongated attachment portion, which is elongated, wherein on the elongations cone-like formed-on thickenings are provided to, filling fill the sink portions of the carrier tube. A screw is passed through this thickenings. The and the carrier tube and a clamping of the carrier tube same is achieved by a nut 30 screwed onto the head screw. The thickenings also engage also in the diametrical attachment bores. A disadvantage is especially, that the use of a head screw with a nut leads to an enlarged the fact, that the diameter is enlarged. Thus and thus,

the projecting portion leads to the fact, that easily winding harvesting goods that can
can be entangled thereon.on the screw

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 5 Object of According to the invention is, to provide a reel tine, is provided with a which
raking-in portion and attachment portions which are integrally or unitarily formed from
plastic material. The tines and which can be securely positioned and attached
onto the a carrier tube. Thus, so that also during strong loading no displacement
is can be produced on the carrier tube or is that the screw connection even detaches-
10 detached. Furthermore, the tines it should be ensured, that the harvesting good does
not get entangled. The reel tine also should also, without necessitating a form change
on the attachment portion and raking-in portion, be useable on tubes having different
sink portions or also on tubes, which have no sink portions.
- 15 This object is solved according to the The invention has by a reel tine for attach-
ment by a screw onto on a carrier tube of a reel. The carrier tube, which is drilled
through cross-wise to form forming two attachment bores. Especially, and especially
having, respectively, in the area of the two attachment bores which are arranged on
one bore axis and extending through the wall of a carrier tube, two sink portions are
20 directed inwards, by means of a screw, comprising.
- A-a raking-in portion formed in a,
-formed rod-like configuration has and
-having a front contact face. An
25 -a n-attachment portion,
-which is formed integrally or unitarily formed with the raking-in portion from a plastic
material. The attachment portion has,
-having a recess with an abutment face for the abutment on the carrier tube. A-and
-from which abutment face a first bore portion starts from the abutment face. A, from
30 which again a second bore portion to for receiving receive the threaded shaft of the
screw starts from the first bore portion. A, and
-a connection sleeve has,

- having a first sleeve portion, which is accommodated in the first bore portion. The sleeve has,
- having a second sleeve portion, insertable into an attachment bore.

5 Of advantage in this design is, that via the The connection sleeve enables tines to be adapted to an adaptation to differently formed carrier tubes can be achieved, without the need having to change the connection portion which is unitarily formed integrally with the raking-in portion. Thus, the connection sleeve can be adapted to the different bore forms of the attachment bores in the carrier tube. Furthermore, it is advantageous, that this the connection sleeve can be made from a hard wearing material which is also less sensitive to shear stress. By means of the The depth of the first bore portion in the attachment portion achieves, a sufficiently advantageous connection to the connection sleeve can be achieved. Furthermore, the abutment face of the recess of the attachment portion can also be formed such, that an adaptation or attachment, respectively, to carrier tubes havingwith different diameters areis possible.

In cases where the that carrier tubes havewith sink portions are used, it is sensible to have a, that the connection sleeve haswith a radially projecting collar separating the first sleeve portion from the second sleeve portion and projects radially therefrom. This collar can be, for example, used to fill-out the sink portion. Thus, it is obvious, that for reel tines according According to the invention, an adaption to the different carrier tube shapes can be achieved in an identical design of the plastic integrally formed raking-in portion made from plastic material with the connection portion. Thus, an adaption to the different carrier tube shapes can be achieved such, that only a connection sleeve adapted to the respective carrier tube is used. Thus, the The tools, necessary, especially for the manufacture of the plastic material component, needcan, therefore, only be ofdesigned for one single type design. This, whereby the tool costs are significantly reducedreduces the tool costs.

30 To be able In order to achieve the necessary form-rigidity in the area of the raking-in portion, at least one reinforcement rib is provided on it is further provided, that the raking-in portion has on its face facing away from the front contact face. _at least one

- ~~reinforcement rib, which~~ The at least one reinforcement rib starts from the attachment portion and ends in front of a free end of the raking-in portion. An especially advantageous design is achieved, when two ribs are provided. ~~The ribs, which~~ approach each other, starting from the attachment portion in a direction towards the free end, and, for example, merge. Thus, the ribs have, in the area of the attachment portion, the largest distance. Preferably, ~~it is provided, that~~ the height of the ribs decrease in the direction to the free end of the raking-in portion ~~decreases~~. Also the width of the contact face of the raking-in portion ~~can decrease~~ decreases towards the free end.
- 5
- 10 ~~An~~ In an advantageous embodiment, ~~provides, that~~ the integral area including consisting of the connection portion and the raking-in portion is made from an elastic plastic material. Preferably ~~it is provided, that~~ the reel tine is made from a polyamide material (PA), a polyoxymethylene material (POM) or a polypropylene material (PP). Preferably, the connection sleeve is made from metal, especially steel, or a tough plastic material. In ~~cases~~ cases where, ~~that~~ additional profiled strips are ~~should~~ be used, ~~it is provided, that~~ the attachment portion has grooves at its two side faces ~~grooves for the accommodation~~ to accommodate of the ends of a profiled strip. In ~~cases~~ cases where, ~~that~~ namely the pitch of the attachment bore on the carrier tube is not exactly maintained, it is possible, to adapt the profiled strip ~~still~~ during the exchange or in the working environment by ~~means of~~ cutting it into lengths from a larger profiled strip ~~to~~ into the given conditions.
- 15
- 20
- 25 This is also possible, when a laterally projecting profiled strip is formed on the attachment portion at one side ~~laterally projecting~~ and the attachment portion has a groove on the side face facing away from the same. The, a groove for the accommodation accommodates of the profiled strip of a neighbouring reel tine. When, hereby, always Accordingly, when a sufficient large profiled strip length is provided, an adaptation is still possible during an exchange in the working environment.
- 30 The invention is described in more detail by means of the embodiments shown schematically in the drawing.

Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating the preferred embodiment of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit

5 the scope of the invention.

It shows

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an a first embodiment of a reel tine according to the invention in a exploded side view, together with the cross-wise cut carrier tube and the screw in accordance with a first embodiment of a reel tine according to the present invention for the attachment,

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the reel tine of Fig. 1 mounted on the carrier tube, with its attachment portion in a cross-sectional view,

Fig. 3 is a rear elevation view entoof the reel tine of Fig. 2 in the direction of the arrow A of Fig. 2,

Fig. 4 is a rear elevation view of aanother different embodiment of a reel tine, with an integrally formed-on profiled strip and with the inserted connection sleeve,

Fig. 5 is a side elevation view of the reel tine of Fig. 4 in the direction of the arrow B of Fig. 4, with a formed-in groove for the profiled strip,

Fig. 6 is a rear elevation view of two reel tines attached distanced to each other on a carrier tube with a the connection strip,

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view VII-VII of Fig. 6 along line VII-VII thereof,

Fig. 8 is a rear elevation view of a further embodiment of a reel tine with two reinforcement ribs in a rear view and,

Fig. 9 is a cross-sectional view IX-IX of Fig. 8 along line IX-IX thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

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In Fig. 1, a first embodiment of a reel tine 1 is shown in an exploded view ~~inwith~~ reference to the attachment ~~ononto~~ a ~~rear~~ carrier tube 2 ~~of a reel~~. ~~For the attachment,~~ ~~the~~ ~~The~~ carrier tube 2 has a first attachment bore 3 and a second attachment bore 4 arranged on the same bore axis 5. ~~These~~ ~~The~~ bores 3, 4 are arranged diametrically ~~opposite~~ ~~opposed~~ and are part of a first sink portion 6 ~~and~~ a second sink portion 7, respectively. ~~These~~ ~~The~~ sink portions 6, 7 are off-set relative to the outer face 8 of the carrier tube 2 inside towards the rotational axis 9 of the carrier tub 2.

10
15 -The reel tine 1 ~~comprises~~ ~~includes~~ a raking-in portion 10 with ~~at~~ the contact face 11 arranged ~~in~~ at the front of the raking-in portion 10 in a rotational direction of the carrier tube 2. ~~An~~ ~~and~~ the attachment portion 12 is formed ~~unitarily~~ or integrally therewith ~~the~~ ~~raking-in portion~~. The reel tine 1 has a free end 14 remote from the attachment portion 12. ~~D~~ ~~and~~ diametrically to the free end 14 in the attachment portion 12, a recess with ~~the~~ ~~an~~ abutment face 13 is formed. The abutment face 13 abuts ~~for~~ ~~abut-~~
20 ~~ment on the~~ ~~the~~ outer face 8 of the carrier tube 2. A first bore portion 16 starts from ~~From the~~ ~~abutment face 13~~ ~~contact face 11~~, in a direction towards the raking-in portion 10. ~~The first bore portion 16 has a~~ ~~starts~~ a first bore portion 16, which is larger in diameter ~~than~~, ~~from which again~~ a second bore portion 17 ~~which starts from the first~~.

25 Furthermore, in Fig. 1 a connection sleeve 18 ~~has~~ is visible, having a through bore 19. The connection sleeve 18 has a first sleeve portion 20, ~~which is form~~ ~~fit~~ ~~formed~~ ~~fittingly~~ to the first bore portion 16 in the attachment portion 12. ~~The connection~~ ~~sleeve 18~~ ~~It has, further,~~ a second sleeve portion 21 ~~which form fits~~, ~~formed~~ ~~fittingly~~ to the ~~first~~ ~~second~~ attachment bore 74. ~~The sleeve portion 21~~, i.e. passes ~~therethrough~~ ~~the bore 4~~. The connection sleeve 18 has, ~~further~~, a collar 22 ~~that~~, ~~separates~~ ~~sepa-~~ ~~rating~~ the first sleeve portion 20 from the second sleeve portion 21. ~~The collar 22~~ ~~and~~ ~~projecting~~ ~~s~~ radially ~~with respect to~~ ~~concerning~~ the axis 23 of the through bore 19

from these. The collar 22 fills at least partially fills the sink portion 7, as seen in Fig. 2. In the case, ~~that~~ the carrier tube is provided without a sink portion, the collar can also be omitted.

- 5 The A screw 24 serves to additionally for the retainment of the reel tine 1 on the carrier tube 2. The screw 24, which has a head 25, formed as a countersunk head, and a threaded shaft 26. The shaft 26 is, which can be screwed into the second bore portion 17. The connection sleeve 18 is made from an essentially harder material, such as metal, than the tine 1. The connecting sleeve 18 having also has better
10 shearing characteristics than the tine 1. The connecting sleeve 18, for example from metal, than the tine 1 and absorbs the shearing forces during the transmission of the forces acting on the raking-in portion 10 and passes these forces on into the carrier tube 2.
- 15 Figures 2 and 3 show the reel tine 1 arranged in the arrangement on to the carrier tube 2, i.e. in ~~at~~ the mounted condition. The reel tine 1, wherein the same is retained by means of the screw 24 on the carrier tube 2. AFurthermore, the rib 15, for the reinforcement, is visible on the tine 1. ThisThe rib 16 starts from on the attachment portion 12 and ends in front of the free end 14. The rib 15 is unitarily formed with the
20 raking-in portion and attachment portion 12 from the same plastic material.

Figures 4 to 6 show an embodiment of a reel tine 101, which corresponds essentially to the retainment of the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3 on the carrier tube. Accordingly, for, so that concerning the description of these parts, it is referred to the description of Figures 1 to 3. Components or portions corresponding to those of the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3, are provided with reference numerals, which compared to those of Figures 1 to 3 are increased by the numerical value 100. OnlyFollowing, however, only the differences are described below.

30 Different to from the embodiment of Figures 1 to 3, is on the attachment connection portion 112. A-a profiled strip 27 is unitarily formed with the attachment portion 112. The strip 27 on, which extends laterally away from the attachment connection portion

112. The side face of the attachmentconnection portion 112 facing away from the profiled strip 27 has a groove 28. The, which cross-section of the groove 28 is adapted to receive the cross section that of the profiled strip 27. The When comparing Figures 5 and 7, the identity of the cross-sections are visible in Figures 5 and 7.

5

In Fig. 6 the arrangement of two reel tines 101 relative to the carrier tube 2 is shown. Here, wherein it is visible, that the profiled strip 27 is connected in the drawing at its free ends to the left reel tine 101 by engaging engages in the grooves 28. The grooves 28 are, arranged on the right and left hand sides of the shown reel tine 101, with its free end. Accordingly, the profiled strip 27 can be a separate part coupled with the grooves 28 of the attachment portions 112 or the strip 27 can be unitarily formed with the attachment portion as shown in Figure 4.

Figures 8 and 9 show-illustrate a further embodiment of a reel tine according to the invention. The wherein the components serving for the attachment of the reel tine 201 and portions compared to those of the embodiment of Figure 1 are provided with reference numerals, which are increased by the numerical value 200 compared to these. The attachment of the reel tine 201, and especially the design of the attachment portion 212, and of the connection sleeve 218 correspond to the embodiment of Fig. 1. Thus, so that for the their description, of the same it is referred to the description of Fig. 1.

Figures 8 and 9 serve only for the explanation of a further reinforcement of the reel tine 201 in the area of the raking-in portion 210. The two ribs 215 start from the attachment portion 212 and extend towards the tip 214. The ribs 215 are spaced apart from one another, at the greatest distance between the rib 215, at the attachment portion 212. The ribs 215 taper toward one another and eventually merge with one another. by means of two Two ribs 215 are on the tines 201, which, starting from the attachment portion 212, at which they are further away from each other, are guided to a portion, at which they are united. Thus, a higher rigidity is achieved. The cross-sections of these ribs 215 are visible in Fig. 9.

The description of the invention is merely exemplary in nature and, thus, variations that do not depart from the gist of the invention are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.

Reference numerals list

- 1, 101, 201 reel tines
2 carrier tube
5 3 first attachment bore
4 second attachment bore
5 bore axis
6 first sink portion
7 second sink portion
10 8 outer face
9 rotational axis
10, 110, 210 raking-in portion
11, 111 contact face
12, 112, 212 attachment portion
15 13, 113 abutment face
14, 114, 214 free end
15, 115, 215 rib
16 first bore portion
17 second bore portion
20 18, 118, 218 connection sleeve
19 through bore
20 first sleeve portion
21 second sleeve portion
22 collar
25 23 axis
24 screw
25 head
26 threaded shaft
27 profiled strip
30 28 groove

Claims

2. Reel tine (1, 101, 201) for the attachment to a carrier tube (2) of a reel, said carrier tube includes a which is drilled through cross-wise bore forming two attachment bores (3, 4) and especially having, respectively, in the area of the two attachment bores (3, 4) arranged on one bore axis (5) and extending through the wall of a carrier tube (2), the tine to the carrier tube has two sink portions (6, 7) directed inwards, by means of a screw (24), connects the tine to the carrier tube, the reel tine comprising

10

-a rod-like raking-in portion (10, 110, 210), with
formed rod-like and
having a front contact face:
(11, 111),

15

-an attachment portion (12, 112, 212), unitarily
which is formed integrally with the raking-in portion (10, 110, 210) from plastic material, said attachment portion
- having a recess and with an abutment face (13, 113) for the abutment abutting on the carrier tube, said (2) and
from which abutment face (13, 113) including a first bore portion starting from said abutment face (16) starts, from which again a second bore portion (17) for receiving the threaded shaft (26) of the screw (24) starts extends from the first bore portion; and

20

25 -a connection sleeve (18, 118, 218),
- having a first sleeve portion, said first sleeve portion (20), which is accommodated in the first bore portion (16), and said connection sleeve
- having a second sleeve portion (21), insertable into an attachment bore (4) of the carrier tube.

30

3. The reel tine according to claim 1, wherein
characterised in that

the connection sleeve (18, 118, 218) has a collar (22) separating the first sleeve portion (20) from the second sleeve portion, said collar (21) and projecting radially therefromfrom said connection sleeve.

- 5 4. The reel Reel tine according to claim 1, wherein
characterised in that
 the raking-in portion (10, 110, 210) has on its face facing away from the front contact
face (11, 111) at least one reinforcement rib, said at least one reinforcement rib (15,
115, 215), starting from the attachment portion (12, 112, 212) and ending in front of a
10 free end (14, 114, 214) of the raking-in portion (10, 110, 210).
5. The reel Reel tine according to claim 32, wherein
characterised in that
 two ribs (215) are provided, which starting from the attachment portion and extend-
15 ing (210) in a direction towards the free end (214) approaching one another
each other.
6. The reel Reel tine according to one of claims 2 or 3, wherein
characterised in that
 20 the height of the at least one rib(s) (15, 115, 215) decreases in the direction towards
the free end (14, 114, 214) of the raking-in portion (10, 110, 210).
7. The reel Reel tine according to claim 1, wherein
characterised in that
 25 the width of the contact face (11, 111) of the raking-in portion (10, 110, 210) de-
creases towards the free end (14, 114, 214) of the same raking-in portion.
8. The reel Reel tine according to claim 1, wherein the tine
characterised in that
 30 it is made from an elastic plastic material.
9. The reel Reel tine according to claim 16,

wherein characterised in that the tine

It is made from a polyamide material (PA), a polyoxymethylene material (POM) or a polypropylene material (PP).

- 5 10. The reel Reel-tine according to claim 1, wherein
_____ characterised in that
the connection sleeve (18, 118) is made from metal, especially steel, or a tough
plastic material.

10 11. The reel Reel-tine according to claim 1, wherein
_____ characterised in that
the attachment portion has grooves at its two side faces grooves for the
accommodationing of the end of a profiled strip.

15 12. The reel Reel-tine according to claim 1, wherein
_____ characterised in that
a profiled strip (27) is formed on the attachment portion (112) at one of its sides; said
profile strip laterally projecting from and that the attachment portion (112), said
attachment portion has on the other side face facing away from the attachment
portion (112) a groove (28) for the accommodationing of the profiled strip (27)
of a neighbouring reel tine.